

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated October 4, 2004. Claims 1 to 50 are pending in the application. Claim 49 has been amended for clarity only and not to distinguish over the art of record. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith. A check in the amount of \$180.00 is submitted herewith to cover the cost of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any additional fees that are deemed necessary.

Claims 1 to 5, 12, 13, 17 TO 19, 22, 29 to 32, 34, 37, 38, 42, 44 and 47 to 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,205,555 to Hamano ("Hamano"). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Independent Claim 1 includes a processor which associates numbers with a plurality of player-selectable positions based on the player's order of selection of the positions.

Independent Claim 12 includes a processor which enables a player to arrange at least two of a plurality of masked numbers in an order decided by the player.

Independent Claim 30 includes a processor which associates a plurality of numbers with a plurality of selections and enables a player to associate the selections with a plurality of positions, wherein the amount of an award provided to the player is based on a number of monetary units equal to the digit order of the numbers associated with the positions.

Independent Claim 42 includes a selection orderer which enables the player to select and order at least two selections with digits to form an award, wherein the processor reveals the award by displaying a number associated with each selection in the digit selected by the player, and wherein the award is based on a number of monetary units equal to the order of the numbers associated with the selections.

Independent Claim 47 includes a processor which associates numbers with selections, and which enables a player to associate selections with a one's digit and a ten's digit of an award provided to the player.

Independent Claim 48 includes a processor which associates numbers with selections, and which enables a player to associate selections with a one's digit, a ten's digit and a hundred's digit of an award provided to the player.

Independent Claim 49 includes processor which associates numbers with the selections, and which enables the player to associate the selections with the number of possible digits to form an award provided to the player wherein the amount of the award is based on a number of monetary units based on the order of the digits.

Hamano fails to disclose a processor which associates numbers with a plurality of player-selectable positions based on the player's order of selection of the positions. In *Hamano*, after tokens are inserted and a game is executed, the number of tokens to be paid is determined in response to the result of the game. *Hamano* includes reels on which numerical and non-numerical symbols are indicated together. The reels are driven separately and stopped at a predetermined stop position and can also be stopped manually by a stop button switch. The kind of symbols (numerical or non-numerical) and the content of any numerical value at the stop position are detected for each of the reels. When all the symbols of the reels are associated with numerical values, the numerical values are substituted into a predetermined operational equation to determine the number of tokens to be paid in response to the operation result.

The Office Action reasons that the selected payline(s) of the reels in *Hamano* are equivalent to the plurality of player-selectable positions/masked numbers. The Office Action further reasons that *Hamano* discloses a processor which associates numbers with a plurality of player-selectable positions based on the player's selection of the positions. However, *Hamano* does not disclose a processor which associates numbers with a plurality of player-selectable positions based on the player's order of selection of the positions. Even assuming the selected payline(s) of the reels in *Hamano* are somehow equivalent to the plurality of player-selectable positions/masked numbers, the

processor does not associate numbers with a plurality of player-selectable positions based on the player's order of selection of the selected payline(s).

Furthermore, the order of reels 1a, 1b and 1c is predetermined according to the arrangement of the reels from left to right (see Figs. 1 and 4). Numbers generated on those reels are ordered along a payline from left to right. For example, if the player selects the paylines 18-20 illustrated in Fig. 4 in the order 18, 20 and 19, and if a 0 is obtained on reel 1a, a 0 is obtained on reel 1b, and a 5 is obtained on reel 1c along payline 18, the order of the numbers is 005. The order of the numbers is 005 regardless of whether payline 18 is picked first, second or third. In other words, the order in which the player selects the paylines does not determine the order in which the numbers appear along the payline. The player in *Hamano* does not pick the order of the numbers. *Hamano*, therefore, fails to disclose a processor which associates numbers with a plurality of player-selectable positions based on the player's order of selection of the positions.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits Claims 1, 12, 30, 42 and 47 to 49 and the claims which depend there from are in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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